
ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (ALA)

The American Library Association is the oldest and largest library association in the world. Its membership of more than 56,000 includes librarians, trustees, other interested persons, and institutions.

The purpose of the association is to provide leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all. Major areas of concern include access to information, legislation and funding, intellectual freedom, public awareness, personnel resources, and library services, development, and technology.

The association publishes a monthly journal for members, *American Libraries*, and has two major conferences a year (usually in January and June).

For more information, contact the American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611. Tel: (800) 545-2433. Internet address: <http://www.ala.org> [viewed 7/8/2005].

AMERICAN LIBRARY TRUSTEE ASSOCIATION (ALTA)

The American Library Trustee Association is the division of ALA that is primarily concerned with the interests of trusteeship. Membership benefits include: the means to connect with libraries of all sizes in all parts of the country; advisory services from the professional headquarters staff; *ALTA The Voice* subscription; the opportunity to serve on one of the ALTA committees of special interest to trustees; information on publications relating to library trusteeship; and discounts on ALTA publications.

Write to: American Library Trustee Association, American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611. Tel: (800) 545-2433.

ALA WASHINGTON, D.C., OFFICE

The American Library Association has an office in Washington that serves as a liaison between the membership of ALA and the federal government. The staff monitors actions of the federal government that affect libraries and disseminates this information to the membership. The staff also supplies information on libraries to Congress and government agencies, and works for legislation affecting library programs.

The *ALA Washington Office Electronic Newsline* (ALAWON) is a free E-mail publication providing urgent and late-breaking library news from Washington, D.C. For more information, write to: American Library Association, 1301 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20004. Tel: (202) 628-8410. You may also visit the ALA web site at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/washnews/news.htm> [viewed 7/8/2005].

FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES U.S.A. (FOLUSA)

FOLUSA is a national organization that works to develop and support local and state Friends of Library groups throughout the country. The organization meets twice a year in conjunction with the American Library Association. These conferences offer opportunities to meet peers from other states, to engage in problem solving, and to share successes.

The organization provides a number of publications, including a bimonthly newsletter, *Fact Sheets*, which presents summaries of the basic needs by Friends groups, three videos, pamphlets on advocacy, general activities, and *the Friends of Libraries Sourcebook*, 3d ed.

FOLUSA also provides a speaker's bureau and offers a special discount on selected Friends' publications.

Write to: FOLUSA, 1420 Walnut Street, Suite 450, Philadelphia, PA 19102. Tel: (215) 790-1674. Internet address: <http://www.folusa.com> [viewed 7/8/2005].

SOUTHEASTERN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (SELA)

The Southeastern Library Association is a regional organization whose objectives are to promote library and information services in the southeastern region of the United States through cooperation, research, and the encouragement of staff development.

Membership encompasses the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

The association has the Trustees and Friends of the Library Section, established for the purpose of promoting libraries and library services through continuing education of trustees and Friends of the Library by means of workshops and the biennial conference.

SELA's biennial conference is held during even-numbered years and the association conducts workshops occasionally.

SELA publishes an online newsletter, *The Southeastern Librarian*, available on the Internet at <http://sela.jsu.edu/SoutheasternLibrarian/SELn.htm> [viewed 7/8/2005].

For more information, contact: SELA Administrative Services, P.O. Box 950, Rex, GA 30273. Tel: (770) 961-3520. Fax: (770) 961-3712. Internet address: <http://scla.jsu.edu/> [viewed 7/8/2005].

VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (VLA)

The Virginia Library Association was formed on December 6, 1905, at a meeting held at the Virginia State Library. Since that time it has played an important role in promoting library establishment, securing funding, and advancing the educational, cultural, and economic conditions in the state.

VLA is a statewide organization whose purpose is to promote the interests of libraries and library service in the commonwealth of Virginia. It is composed of libraries, librarians, trustees, Friends, and other interested individuals. Approximately 1,200 individual and institutional members represent a cross-section of educational, commercial, and professional interests.

Publications include: *Virginia Libraries* (issued quarterly) and the *VLA Newsletter* (published monthly, except January and July).

The association sponsors the Virginia Library Association Jobline, an Internet service listing job openings in Virginia libraries. For further information contact VLA at (757) 583-0041 or on the Internet at <http://www.vla.org> [viewed 7/8/2005].

For more information, write to: Virginia Library Association, P.O. Box 8277, Norfolk, Virginia 23503-0277.

TRUSTEE/FRIENDS FORUM

The Trustee/Friends Forum of the Virginia Library Association provides an opportunity for trustees and Friends to take an active role in the advancement of better library service throughout the state. The association strives to educate individual trustees and Friends through publications, programs, and personal contacts; to work for library legislation for improved library service; and to inform and stimulate the interest of trustees and Friends for greater effectiveness.